

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 11-17, 21-23, 34, 37, 38 and 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Akkapeddi et al. (U.S. patent 6,423,776). It is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. As discussed above, the present application has been amended to delete the names of Darnell C. Worley II, Jeffrey D. Pratt and Clark V. Brown because they are not co-inventors of the invention currently being herein claimed. The remaining inventors in this application are Murali K. Akkapeddi, Edward P. Socci and Timothy J. Kraft. These three inventors are also the only inventors named in U.S. patent 6,423,776.

In view of this amendment, the applied reference, U.S. patent 6,423,776, is not an invention "by another" as recited by 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Akkapeddi et al. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome by the instant amendment. With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), the inventorship for the present application has been corrected and the three named inventors for the present application are now the same as the three named inventors in U.S. patent 6,423,776. Accordingly, the applied reference is not an invention "by another". For these reasons, it is respectfully asserted that U.S. patent 6,423,776 is not available as a reference herein. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. patent 6,423,776. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is not well taken. For the reasons discussed above, U.S. patent 6,423,776 is not available as a reference herein. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

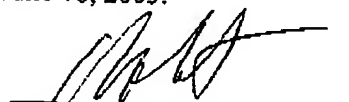
The undersigned respectfully requests re-examination of this application and believes it is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested. If the examiner believes there is any matter which prevents allowance of the present application, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted to arrange for an interview which may expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard S. Roberts
Reg. No. 27,941
P.O. Box 484
Princeton, New Jersey 08542
(609) 921-3500
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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. 703-872-9310) on June 18, 2003.



Richard S. Roberts
Reg. No. 27,941